BENGALURU, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2024 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

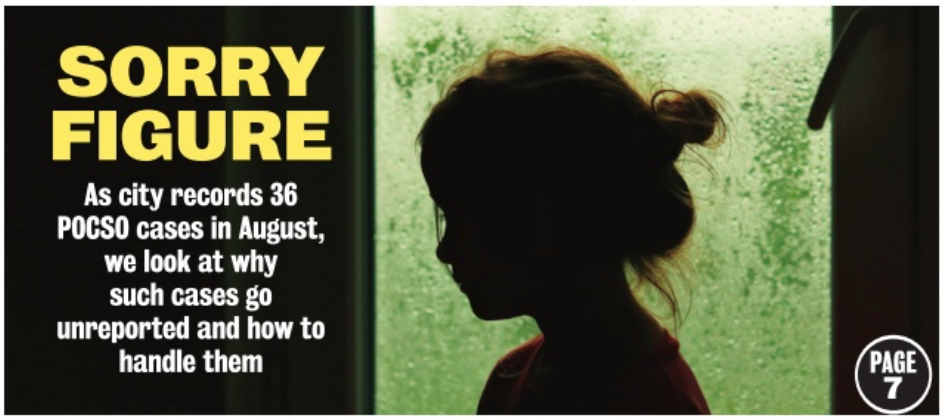
Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 27 | Min 21 | Humidity 74% Light rain Sensex 81,224 | Nifty 24,854 | Gold 77,750 | Silver 93,804 | Dollar 84.07 | Euro 91.17 | GBP 109.73

PRICEY PLATE

How hoteliers in the city are dealing with weather-related price fluctuations as their profits plummet

PAGE 2



SORRY FIGURE

As city records 36 POCSO cases in August, we look at why such cases go unreported and how to handle them

PAGE 7

Hasty pothole filling exercise of BBMP lies exposed after rain, all stop-gap arrangements have fallen off and motorists are left to deal with nasty reality of broken roads

SHOWERS WASH OFF POTHOLE MAKEUP

Layers of mud and stones flow away from recently fixed roads

Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

It has been just days since the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) showed up with a big pot-hole filling exercise. Well, it has all come apart in the recent heavy rain. Most of the material used to fill up potholes and craters have been washed away, thus leaving the motorists, especially two-wheeler riders, in dire straits all over again.

Except for a few roads, especially roads that were white topped, the condition of most roads in the city is back to square one. With no solution for potholes in sight, motorists continue to suffer in silence. The BBMP officials, as per the deadlines fixed by Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, worked day and night to fill up potholes and claimed that thousands of potholes and craters had been filled up.

Motorists blame the BBMP for not following standard methods while filling up potholes. They said the BBMP engineers did not focus on the quality of the material used for filling up potholes.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

KAUSHIK JN

> **"The absence of filters in shoulder drains allows debris to clog them, forcing rainwater onto the roads, which accelerates asphalt deterioration and leads to recurring potholes**
>
> — Vinod Jacob of Namma Bengaluru Foundation

After-effect of dry September

Past few days rain notwithstanding, reports shows groundwater table of city plummeted due to rainless last month

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

September this year has been dry for Bengaluru. The impact is visible on water levels in shallow aquifers across the city.

A groundwater table report by the Ground Water Directorate shows that water tables across all taluks of Bengaluru's urban and rural districts have plummeted in September this year.

In the majority of the taluks, it has gone down by more than four metres below the ground level.

Yelahanka, Anekal, and Bengaluru West have experienced a drop of two to four metres in the groundwater table, the rest of the taluks - Bengaluru East, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru South, Doddaballapur, Devanahalli, Nelamangala, and Hoskote - have experienced a drop of more than four metres.

According to the report, the groundwater in Hoskote is now available at 60–75 metres below ground level. In Devanahalli, it is reachable at 40-60 metres below ground level. Over-exploitation, lack of action by authorities against those sinking illegal borewells, and rapid urbanisation are prime reasons behind the declining trend

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

3 THINGS TO DO

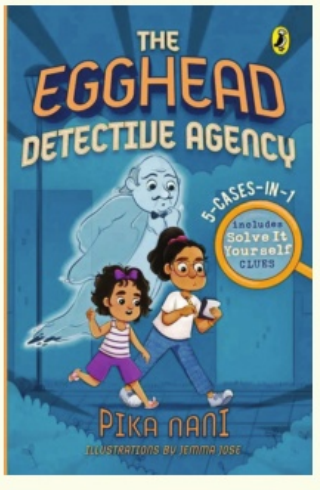
01 Interactive art workshops

Join in for 'Artful Bonds,' a monthly series of interactive workshops designed to unite generations through the arts. Explore performing and visual arts while working on collaborative projects inspired by cultural artefacts from the museum's rich collection. Open to all ages, these workshops provide a platform for families to exchange creative skills and ideas, fostering strong intergenerational bonds. Each session concludes with a showcase of participants' creations, celebrating teamwork and artistic expression.
Where: Indian Music Experience Museum
When: Starting October 20, 11 am (monthly sessions)

02 Carnatic music

Spend a lovely evening at a Carnatic vocal music concert by Nadasurabhi. Known as one of the star performers of the current generation, Kalyanapuram S Aravind is the main artist. He will be accompanied by well-known artists Sayee Rakshit, Jayachandra Rao, and Sunaad Anoor. Aravind is a senior disciple of Padmabhushan awardee Madurai TN Seshagopalan. His energy and expertise are now well known.
Where: St John's Medical College Campus
When: October 20, 4:15 pm

03 Play detective



So you want to be a detective? Do you love reading mystery books? Then put on your thinking caps and get your magnifying glasses ready for "Junior Detectives: Mystery Hunters," a session by Pika Nani, a children's author based in Bengaluru. Join in and create your own secret codes, learn about fingerprints, test your observation skills, and solve a mystery.
Where: Atta Galatta; When: October 20, 4:30 pm

Be it rain or shine, your wallets will face drought

Festive season strikes hard on Bengalureans' kitchens, squeezing budgets with rising food costs; hoteliers worry for their shaky income

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It's now a known fact that prices tend to rise whenever there is a drought or excessive rainfall, and now, with heavy rain in Bengaluru, the cost of many goods, including several essential items, is increasing. This has left the residents, especially the hoteliers in the city, concerned for their budget.

According to Bruhat Bangalore Hotel Association (BBHA) Secretary Veerendra Kamath, as tomato prices are rising, the hoteliers have started using tomato puree as an alternative. "Most dishes rely heavily on onions, and we may have to reduce their usage. Some smaller hotels might even stop serving onion dosa. Additionally, coffee prices are likely to increase due to a global supply shortage. However, we are holding off on increasing our prices for now and will reassess the situation in about a month," he said.

Upsurge in oil prices

While the festive season brings joy to many, a sudden rise in cooking oil prices has silently disturbed household budgets. The price of palm oil has shot up to around ₹130-₹135 per litre, marking a 40% increase in just a month. Sunflower oil, which was priced at ₹110-₹115/l a month ago, now costs between ₹140-₹150/l for branded varieties.

This price hike follows the central government's recent increase in import duties on palm and sunflower oil, which has caused a 20% rise in the market. With the festive season in full swing, oil traders say an additional 20% hike has further driven up prices. Traders said that palm oil consumption spikes during festivals.

Nagaraj G, a retail trader said, "The current prices of cooking oils have surged, with palm oil now priced between ₹130-135/l, and sunflower oil reaching ₹140-150/l. Wholesale traders anticipate that palm oil prices could increase even further. This continued rise is placing a significant strain on household budgets, especially during the festive season, as families struggle to manage the additional expenses."

Tea & coffee may become pricier

Meanwhile, in light of the recent hikes in the prices of coffee powder, tea powder, and milk, hotel owners are contemplating increasing the prices of coffee and tea after Diwali. However, hotels have also been trying to avoid passing the burden onto customers. Currently, the price of a cup of coffee or tea ranges from ₹15-35. Hotel owners are now considering a ₹2 increase per cup, although the exact amount may vary based on quality and other factors. Since March this year, the price of coffee powder has increased twice—once by ₹80 per kg and another time by ₹70 per kg. The price of pure coffee powder now stands at ₹750 per kg, with the Coffee Board indicating an impending hike of ₹100-₹120 per kg. Similarly, the price of tea powder has seen an increase of ₹40-₹45 per kg, and some brands of milk powder are now charging up to ₹425 per kg.

'The price of palm oil has shot up to around Rs 130–135 per litre, marking a 40% increase in just a month'

Reduced footfall

The ongoing monsoon season has already resulted in a 50% drop in footfall at hotels. Hotel owners are also concerned that increasing prices again could lead to a further decline in customers, according to BBHA.

SP Krishnaraju, owner of Nisarga Grand Hotel on Nrupathunga Road, said, "We are currently selling coffee and tea at ₹30 per cup. Although raw material costs have gone up, we cannot raise prices immediately as it will affect our customers. We are already running at a loss. Even if the price of coffee powder increases again, we will wait for two to three months before making any changes. If no solution is found, we may have to increase prices in the future."

Hotel owners are also planning to appeal to MP Kota Srinivas Poojari, a member of the Central Coffee Board, urging the government to import coffee powder to ease the burden on small businesses, Krishnaraju added. BBHA president PC Rao said, "Hotel owners are already struggling to run their businesses at a loss. With the possibility of another ₹100 hike in the price of coffee powder, we will hold a meeting to discuss and make a decision on increasing prices."

Meanwhile, the farmers in the Kalaburagi belt are concerned that this unfavourable weather might lead to flower shedding, damage, and increase the risk of pest infestations, potentially affecting the harvest of tur dal. Last year, prices reached ₹12,000 per quintal, and with the current weather threats, there is a possibility of further price hikes. However, if the harvest proceeds as expected, the market price for tur dal could stabilise at around ₹1,000 per quintal.

City's nursing colleges take up CPR training

Cardiac issues have been rising in India, especially among people under 50 years of age, with heart attacks affecting many unexpectedly. This situation highlights the need for timely action and the importance of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training in the community. Nursing colleges in the city are taking the lead in CPR training to address the increase in cardiac emergencies.

When a heart stops, quick intervention with CPR can make the difference between life and death. On this note, Manipal Hospitals have launched a CPR training program in nursing colleges and other educational institutions, aiming to prepare more people for handling cardiac emergencies.

By partnering with over 30 educational institutions, including Laasya College of Nursing, SJB College of Nursing, Indian Academy College of Nursing, Bash Heal Home Healthcare Services Pvt Ltd, Bangalore College of Nursing, Chinmaya Institute of Nursing, T John School of Nursing, Shanti Dharma College of Nursing, Goutham College of Nursing, Nalapad Nursing College, Universal College of Nursing, Acharya Institute of Health Sciences, SSMRV Degree College, AVK School of Nursing, RR College of Nursing, and Aditya College of Nursing, Manipal Hospitals are equipping future carers with the skills to act as first responders. Recently, volunteers from these institutions demonstrated their readiness at the 'Mission 3K—3000 Hearts, One Beat' event hosted by Manipal Hospitals.

Dr Pradeep Haranahalli, Consultant-Interventional Cardiology at Manipal Hospital Whitefield, explained that heart attacks have a high risk of sudden cardiac death. He emphasised that immediate CPR by a first responder from the community significantly improves survival chances compared to intervention by healthcare providers or paramedics. **— BMB**

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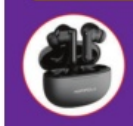

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Hosakerehalli chaos: Road and lake in ruins

Hosakerehalli residents voice frustration over neglect and safety concerns as their complaints to authorities remain unanswered, leaving them to suffer from years of inaction

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Poor condition of Hosakerehalli Lake and Kerekodi Main Road

Residents of Hosakerehalli are at their wit's end. The one-kilometre stretch of Kerekodi Main Road has been in disrepair for two years, and the rejuvenation of Hosakerehalli Lake has been stalled since March 2023, raising significant safety and health concerns. Locals say they are bearing the consequences of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) neglect. Between December 2022 and June 2024, residents notified various authorities on five different occasions about the poor condition of the main road and lake. However, the authorities have remained unresponsive.

"We have approached BBMP's Road and Lake Departments, apart from meeting BBMP's commissioner Tushar Girinath. We also wrote to Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivkumar about the risk that every commuter faces while traversing the road. However, no action has been taken," rued a resident.

"Our complaints regarding pothole-ridden Kerekodi Main Road on Sahayaa app are being dismissed without any action on the ground," alleged another resident. The condition of Kerekodi Main Road, which was demolished in December 2022, had deteriorated further, adding to commuters' woes. Recent heavy rainfall has exacerbated the situation, making the road increasingly prone to frequent accidents.

"The main road poses a threat to two-wheelers and pedestrians. We have witnessed multiple accidents involving two-wheelers. There is a government school up the hill, and we have seen schoolchildren navigating the road with their shoes in their hands," said Rachana Ravi, a resident of the area.

Feeling dejected and hopeless, residents decided to take matters into their own hands a couple of months ago by attempting to provide a quick fix for the road. They poured piles of dry construction materials to address the issue, but their attempts proved futile.

Residents' requests to restart Hosakerehalli Lake rejuvenation work also seem to be reaching nowhere as the authorities continue to stonewall the concerns raised. While the rejuvenation of the water body abutting Kerekodi Main Road was started by BBMP in May 2022, it came to a screeching halt immediately after.

Concrete work and de-silting at the lake were stopped citing the arrival of the rainy season. BBMP restarted the work in December 2022. However, it was again stopped abruptly after residents reported truckloads of soil dumped in the middle of the lake by BBMP's contractor. They feared that it was an attempt by the civic agency to create a road bisecting the lake. Residents also alleged that BBMP had not sought approval from the Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority before for rejuvenation work.

When BM spoke to a senior official of BBMP's Lake Department, they said, "More than 50% of the work on sewage diversion drain is completed. For the remaining work, we have approached higher officials for tender process approval. Once approved, a tender will be floated to complete sewage diversion work. Rejuvenation work was stalled due to legal complications arising from complaints filed by residents against the contractor. Moreover, we were instructed not to start working during the monsoon season as it will store rainwater and prevent flooding. We will soon start the work," said the official. BBMP's Road Infrastructure Department refused to comment.

Garden City betrayed: Park sites 'misused'

Despite Bengaluru's reputation as the Garden City, civic amenity (CA) sites designated for parks are allegedly being repurposed for other uses in areas developed by the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA). While Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) employees are tasked with increasing the number of parks in the city, a site intended for a park is allegedly being misused for other purposes in a layout designated for BBMP employees in Raghuvanahalli, located in southern Bengaluru.

The BDA began developing the Bengaluru City Municipal Corporation (BCMC) Layout for the BBMP employees in the year 1994. The BDA made a deed of rectification on June 23, 2007, with the president of Bangalore City Municipal Corporation Employees House Building Cooperative Society Limited declaring that all the civic amenity (CA) sites (13) as parks. The site (park) number 5 situated at 6th Cross of 5th Main, Raghuvanahalli is one of the 13 sites reserved for parks.

R Subramanyam, president of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Employees House Building Cooperative Society Limited, on June 14, 2022, wrote to the Bescom (Bangalore Electric Supply Company Limited) Assistant Executive Engineer requesting a temporary electricity connection for a structure on site number 5, which is designated for a park according to the BDA Deed of Rectification. Residents report that a new building with a compound wall has been constructed on the site and was recently inaugurated.

The structure on the site meant for a park at BCMC Layout, Raghuvanahalli

R Subramanyam, speaking with BM said, "The structure was constructed for the benefit of site engineers and to keep the material during the formation of the layout. I am aware of the BDA's deed of rectification but the structure existed much before the deed of rectification was made," he said.

MR Bhyregowda, a retired Assistant Revenue Officer of the BBMP and a resident of BCMC Layout said, "There was an attempt to construct a temple at a site meant for a park at the layout. We had to approach the High Court seeking justice in November 2023. The BBMP Chief Commissioner submitted to the court that the structure was demolished and the High Court has disposed of the petition. Now, another site meant for a park is being misused by the president of the BBMP Employees House Building Cooperative Society. I appeal to the authorities concerned to take suitable action," said Bhyregowda. He alleged that there are efforts to begin constructing a temple on the premises of park number 4. "The president has been misusing the members' dividend funds," he stated.

However, Subramanyam stated, "We have not declared any dividends for members since there is no revenue or profit," he explained, adding that there are no plans to restart construction of the temple at the park, which was recently cleaned by BBMP workers.

— Y Maheswara Reddy

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Smoke hazard

Jakkur

Garbage is burned daily on Amruthahalli Main Road, Jakkur, sending black smoke and a foul smell into nearby homes. This poses a serious health risk. Immediate action is needed.

Debris danger

Nandini Layout

Glass shards have been discarded on the road in Nandini Layout.

Footpath blocked

Mysore Road

A showroom on Mysore Road has blocked the footpath with a parking sign.

Fake IDs, geo-spoofing used to defraud logistics firm

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In a tech-enabled fraud that underscores the extremes people will go to sustain a lavish lifestyle, Bengaluru City Police have arrested four individuals allegedly involved in a complex scheme to defraud the logistics company Porter. By creating fake customer and driver IDs, the suspects reportedly siphoned off ₹90 lakh, which they used to fund a luxurious lifestyle, build homes, and repay loans.

The fraudulent activity surfaced when an assistant manager at Porter, a prominent logistics company under SmartShift Logistics Solutions Pvt Ltd, filed a complaint on July 23. The assistant manager reported that unknown individuals had manipulated the company's app by creating fake customer IDs and driver profiles. Using geo-spoofing to make it seem like orders originated from distant locations, the culprits placed orders, cancelled them after feigning fulfilment, and collected refunds without completing any tasks. This scheme had been running for eight months, resulting in substantial financial losses for the company.

After receiving the complaint, the CEN (Cyber Economic and Narcotics) Police launched an investigation, tracing the bank accounts associated with the fraud. By tracking the KYC records and technical information, the police identified four suspects involved in the scheme. The breakthrough came on September 21, when the first accused was arrested near Hirisave Circle in Hassan District. During questioning, the individual revealed how the operation worked: orders would be booked using fake customer IDs, and the payments would be funnelled into fake driver accounts. The company, unaware of the deception, would issue refunds while the accused transferred the illicit funds to their personal accounts.

Fake customer IDs were used to place orders, funnelling payments into driver accounts

Scammers manipulate company's app to create fake customer IDs, driver profiles to siphon off Rs 90 lakh

As the investigation deepened, more arrests followed. The second accused voluntarily appeared at the police station on September 24, while the third was taken into custody the following day. By September 30, two more accomplices were apprehended, and both were remanded to judicial custody. On October 3, the police arrested two more suspects involved in the scam at Srinagar Main Road, Bengaluru.

The police uncovered that the fraudulent scheme was not limited to Karnataka alone. The suspects had also targeted Porter in neighbouring states such as Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and West Bengal using similar methods. The culprits had manipulated the system by altering vehicle registration numbers and funnelling the fraudulent gains into the bank accounts of friends and family, effectively laundering the money. The accused are now in judicial custody, awaiting further legal proceedings.

Property registrations in Bengaluru plunge 60%

E-khata server delays are frustrating builders and buyers with slow transactions

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The implementation of the mandatory e-Khata system for property registrations within Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits has resulted in a substantial decline in property transactions, particularly impacting the sale and purchase of new apartment flats. Reports indicate that registrations at sub-registrar offices have decreased by 60%. The Revenue Department introduced the e-Khata system in the BBMP area to combat fraudulent property transactions involving fake documents. To facilitate this process, the BBMP website has been integrated with the Kaveri-2 software.

Impact on apartment registrations

Previously, apartment builders would finish construction and obtain an Occupancy Certificate (OC) from the BBMP before registering flats in buyers' names. After the purchase, buyers would then apply for e-Khata in their own names. However, with the new regulations, e-Khata is now mandatory for all property registrations. This change requires builders to first register the e-Khata for each flat in their names before transferring ownership to buyers. While the intention is to reduce property fraud, builders are encountering difficulties due to the BBMP's inadequate facilities for completing this process. As a result, flat registrations have effectively come to a halt, according to reports from concerned citizens.

Server issues persist

Apartment builders seeking to obtain e-Khata from the Assistant Revenue Officer (ARO) offices are encountering delays due to server issues. This situation has created considerable frustration for property buyers, particularly non-resident Indians (NRIs), who are facing setbacks in finalising their purchases, according to representatives from prominent construction companies. "The e-Khata issue is not only impacting property registrations but also causing difficulties in securing mortgage loans, releasing mortgaged properties, and registering education loans, rights releases, and partition deeds. The mandatory e-Khata is also affecting the release of mortgaged buildings, causing further delays in property transactions," said a source.

Real estate companies to meet IGR

Real estate developers, who typically mortgage properties to raise funds during the construction of apartments or commercial complexes, are also facing challenges due to the e-Khata requirement. Developers now need an e-Khata for each flat before releasing it from the mortgage. Representatives from real estate companies have decided to meet with the Inspector General of Registration and the Commissioner of Stamps to address these issues.

A public-friendly initiative: Dayanand

Before this rule, sub-registrars would register properties without proper documents, such as revenue plots, by marking them as "others" in the registration process. This led to many people losing their investments in unauthorised plots. The mandatory e-Khata system will help protect such individuals from falling prey to fraud. Although there are some issues in Bengaluru, they will be resolved soon, and the public is urged to cooperate, said KA Dayanand, Inspector General of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps

1-Day e-khata

Do you have an urgent property registration at the sub-registrar scheduled for October 2024? If so, follow these steps to obtain your BBMP Final e-Khata. According to BBMP officials, "First, download your draft e-Khata online by visiting the BBMP eAasthi portal and accessing the ward-wise eKhata list. You can find your ward name and number on your BBMP property tax receipt. Once you have the draft e-Khata, you will need to upload the required information online. This includes your 10-digit BBMP Property Tax Application Number, Aadhaar-based eKYC for all owners (or in-person authentication using Passport, Voter ID, or Driving Licence if Aadhaar is unavailable), the Registered Deed Number (retrieved from KAVERI), an Encumbrance Certificate covering the period from one day before the registration date of the deed to October 18, 2024, a photo of the property taken from the front, and your 10-digit BESCOM Account ID . After uploading and submitting this information online, meet with the Assistant Revenue Officer, who will issue the final e-Khata within one day if everything is in order. If you face any challenges completing the steps and have an urgent registration, you can visit the jurisdictional ARO office with all your documents and up-to-date Encumbrance Certificate, where the Help Desk will assist in uploading the necessary information and generating your Final e-Khata in one day, as per rules. Please note, that citizens who do not have an urgent property registration at the sub-registrar are requested not to visit the ARO office unless specifically asked by a BBMP-issued Endorsement. In such cases, you can download your Final e-Khata online at your convenience, and the requirement for an Encumbrance Certificate (EC) will be waived."

Man arrested for hacking wife

In a shocking incident of domestic violence, a 52-year-old man from Singenahalli, identified as Srinivas, has been arrested for allegedly murdering his 45-year-old wife, Sudha, with a machete. Srinivas, a small chicken shop owner struggled with alcohol addiction, leading to frequent quarrels with his wife. On the morning of October 18, things took a violent turn when Srinivas, enraged after another altercation, attacked his wife with a machete typically used for cutting chicken at his shop. Sudha died on the spot due to the severity of the injuries. The crime was discovered when resident Arjun S returned from a nearby dairy to find Sudha's lifeless body. The police arrested Srinivas.

Man dies in quarrel with dad

A domestic dispute turned fatal on Saturday when a 36-year-old cab driver, was allegedly killed by his father in Nagadevanahalli, Kengeri. The son, Rajesh, was found dead near his grandmother's house. The Kengeri police registered a case following a complaint from Lokesh KH, a relative of the victim.

According to the complaint, Rajesh's grandmother, Puttamma, explained that Rajesh had been involved in a violent argument with his father, Lingappa. Lingappa, allegedly hit him on the head with a wooden bar. Rajesh succumbed to his injuries. Kengeri Police initiated an investigation into the murder.

College student dies by suicide

A 19-year-old Shravya D, a BBA student at RNS College, died by suicide at her home in Chamarajpet. The young woman reportedly hung herself after a minor quarrel with her elder sister. Police said that, in a moment of anger, she made the devastating decision to end her life. The case is currently under investigation.

PICS: KAUSHIK JN

Drizzled out Tree uprooted in Sheshadri Road; the India-New Zealand match was disrupted and traffic was slow due to heavy rain on Saturday

White tigress & gharials at Bannerghatta zoo

Bannerghatta and Patna Zoo exchanged animals as part of animal exchange programme, sending one male zebra and two male thamin deer to Patna Zoo

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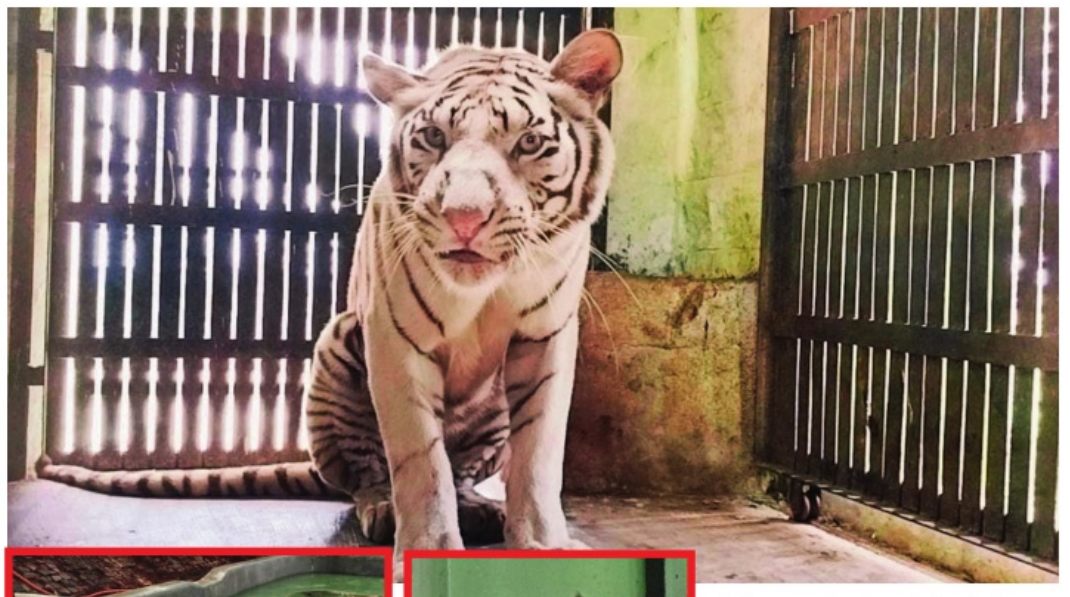
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Under an animal exchange programme, Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) and Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park in Patna, successfully conducted an exchange of animals. As part of the agreement, Bannerghatta received three endangered gharials (two males and one female), a six-year-old white tigress, and a female wildcat. In return, Bannerghatta sent one male zebra and two male thamin deer to the Patna Zoo. This exchange was approved by the Central Zoo Authority in New Delhi.

During the transportation of animals from Patna, the truck carrying them met with an accident on a highway in Nirmal district, Telangana. However, zookeeper Harishchandra, and veterinary officer Anand, confirmed that the animals escaped unharmed. Local forest department officials, including the Conservator of Forest and Deputy Conservator of Forest, provided assistance on-site. The arrival of these new animals has brought excitement to the staff and visitors at Bannerghatta Biological Park. This exchange is expected to contribute to the conservation and breeding programmes at both zoos. An official said, "All the animals brought to Bannerghatta are in good health and will be kept in quarantine for 45 days as a precautionary measure. The animals were safely brought to Bannerghatta on Friday with all necessary precautions in place."



Three endangered gharials, a six-year-old white tigress, and a female wildcat in Bannerghatta Biological Park

> **All the animals brought to Bannerghatta are in good health & will be kept in quarantine for 45 days as a precautionary measure**
>
> –Official

An official said, "The animal exchange programme was done as per the approval from Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi. This initiative is part of BBP's ongoing efforts to enhance species diversity for ex-situ conservation. As part of the exchange, BBP sent a male zebra and two male thamin deer to Patna Zoo and in return, received critically endangered gharials, a white tigress, and a jungle cat. These new residents are housed in a quarantine area for a few days to allow them to acclimatise to Bengaluru weather and are under constant observation. This exchange aimed to strengthen the conservation and breeding programmes at both zoos while providing visitors with the opportunity to observe and learn about the species up close. Animal exchange programmes also highlight the collaborative efforts of Indian zoos in advancing conservation, education and species management."

Minister urges use of green crackers

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In a bid to curb air and noise pollution, and to safeguard the health of senior citizens and young children, Minister for Forests, Biology, and Environment, Eshwar Khandre, has urged citizens to refrain from bursting crackers or to use only green crackers during the Deepavali celebrations. The minister also highlighted the risks associated with fireworks, especially for children. "Many children sustain eye injuries while bursting crackers, and numerous others get hurt. Therefore, it's best to avoid fireworks as much as possible. If crackers must be burst, only green crackers that do not harm the environment should be used," he stated in the press release.

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the Supreme Court have both ruled that fireworks exceeding 125 decibels or those releasing excessive smoke due to chemicals are prohibited. Further, the use of green crackers is allowed only between 8 pm and 10 pm. Khandre stressed that citizens must adhere to these regulations during the festivities.

During a meeting with district authorities and senior officials following the Ganesh Chaturthi festival, instructions were given to ensure that firecracker shop owners provide written undertakings stating that they will only stock, transport, and sell green crackers. It was also made clear that those who violate these rules would not be granted licenses to sell fireworks in the future, and district administrations have been directed to take strict action. Khandre also called upon organisations, teachers, lecturers, environmental activists, and public representatives to raise awareness among the general public, especially children, about the harmful effects of crackers and to encourage the use of green crackers or celebrate Diwali without fireworks. He concluded by stressing the environmental and health impacts of fireworks, stating that the smoke and noise from chemical-based and heavy metal-laden crackers cause respiratory problems. "Let's abandon harmful fireworks. Light lamps and celebrate an eco-friendly Deepavali," Khandre urged.

THE SUNDAY READ

Break the silence

Bengaluru reports 36 POCSO cases in August alone; registers 454 cases as of September 30

| Sanjana CS
c-sanjana.s@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

With 36 POCSO cases reported in August alone, Bengaluru tops the list among the 37 police commissionerates across Karnataka. Of these, 27 involved rape, marking a significant increase compared to the 38 cases recorded in the corresponding month of 2023. This surge has brought the city into sharp focus, even as experts point out that the actual numbers might be much higher due to underreporting in many rural areas.

As of September 30, 2024, Bengaluru has reported a staggering 454 cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Out of these, 324 were rape cases involving minors, with 273 incidents shockingly perpetrated by someone known to the victim. This alarming statistic not only highlights the prevalence of child sexual abuse within trusted circles but also raises questions about the role of social stigma in preventing timely reporting of such acts.

Most cases go unreported

Despite the challenges, more families in urban areas like Bengaluru are becoming aware of the importance of mental health and the devastating impact of sexual abuse on children, said Rajalaxmi Ankalagi, an advocate and child rights activist. "...That is one reason why Bengaluru's POCSO cases are so high. People are finally coming forward to report these crimes. In rural areas, however, the situation is more dire."

She explained the deep-rooted cultural issues that prevent many cases from ever reaching the authorities. "To be frank, no one expects such incidents to occur, especially within familiar circles. Parents often believe they have greater control over their child's safety by limiting their interactions to known people, neighbours, relatives, or even domestic help in wealthier families. However, it's within these very circles that most of these tragic incidents take place."

Ignored & buried away

Ankalagi highlighted that parents often fail to recognise minor sexual harassment or abuse as a serious issue. "They might dismiss these incidents as isolated, or worse, try to cover them up due to fear of social stigma. Even today, many parents believe that reporting sexual abuse will damage their child's future, particularly when it comes to girls, as society still holds outdated expectations regarding purity and virginity at the time of marriage," she said.

This sentiment is echoed in the words of a paediatrician, a friend of Ankalagi, who often encounters signs of abuse during routine check-ups for children. "Many times, children under five come in for treatment related to minor trauma, and we can easily detect signs of sexual abuse. But parents plead with us not to report these cases to the police. It often involves someone close to the family, like an uncle, aunt, or even a grandparent. While the POCSO Act mandates that doctors report such incidents, parents are terrified of the repercussions, particularly when the abuser is a close relative."

"Even today, many parents believe that reporting sexual abuse will damage their child's future, particularly when it comes to girls, as society still holds expectations of purity during marriage. Caste issues, social dynamics & fear of retaliation often prevent families from filing complaints –Rajalaxmi Ankalagi, advocate & child rights activist

It is important to recognise that both girls & boys are victims of sexual abuse, though fewer cases involving boys are reported due to greater social stigma. Proper medical care, support should be extended to all victims

Reporting barriers in rural areas

The barriers to reporting are even more complex in rural communities, Ankalagi pointed out. "Caste issues, social dynamics, and fear of retaliation often prevent families from filing complaints. If a girl belongs to a lower caste and the boy is from a higher caste, it's common for the victim's family to be threatened into silence. In some cases, people do come forward, but the narrative shifts toward false accusations, particularly when compensation claims under SC/ST laws are involved."

Rise in POCSO cases

According to data from the Bengaluru police, there has been a steady increase in POCSO cases over the years. In 2020, 286 POCSO cases were registered, rising to 401 in 2021, 482 in 2022, and 594 in 2023. With 454 cases reported by September 2024, the city is on track to surpass last year's total.

As the numbers continue to rise, the city's struggle with child sexual abuse is becoming increasingly evident. While increased awareness and reporting may account for part of the surge, the persistence of social stigma and underreporting, particularly in rural areas, means the fight against child abuse is far from over.

What more could be done to handle such cases?

Police stations are the primary agencies for handling POCSO complaints, but they often lack the sensitivity required. To address this, specialised zones could be established within jurisdictions, with dedicated POCSO-sensitive police stations run in collaboration with NGOs and women officers. These stations would facilitate immediate medical tests and expert care for victims, ensuring swift action even if the victim cannot leave their home due to trauma.

It's important to recognise that both girls and boys are victims of sexual abuse, though fewer cases involving boys are reported due to greater social stigma. Proper medical care, compensation, and support should be extended to all victims.

To prevent witness intimidation and the changing of statements, victim testimonies should be video-recorded, ideally in front of a magistrate. Additionally, digitising court processes, including videographing a child's emotions during testimony, would enhance credibility.

The judicial process could be improved by digitising trials and using video evidence to capture emotions and credibility. POCSO courts should be housed in separate, child-friendly buildings away from regular courts. Moreover, harsher punishments can sometimes backfire, as accused individuals may resort to more extreme actions to avoid evidence of rape, such as committing murder, which has lesser sentences than rape charges.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

NATURE'S MARVEL

An exotic flower inside a plantation in Madikeri

The picture was clicked by reader **NJ Ravi Chander**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Doddakallasandra Roads continue to be death traps

Improper roads and non-existent footpaths leading to unending flooding has been a common sight for 18 months

The residents of the Gokulam complex along with two major apartments in Doddakallasandra near Vajarahalli, have been suffering due to the poor maintenance of the roads in the region and the apathy of the civic authorities, particularly the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

Ramkumar, who has lived in the area for nearly two years, remarked that the problems have persisted for at least 18 months. The area has seen frequent flooding due to improper maintenance of the roads and non-existent footpaths. This forces people to walk in the middle of the roads for the lack of a safer option. Although the area is home to big residential complexes and the residents are a major source of the city's property tax revenue, they still feel betrayed by the local authorities. "The roads are always flooded, there's no proper desilting, and it's unsafe to walk anywhere due to the lack of footpaths," said Ramkumar, who actively leads civic initiatives in the locality. He has made countless complaints to BBMP officials, including directly messaging the commissioner, but these efforts have yielded little result. "They just do cheap patchwork on the roads, which doesn't solve anything," he added.

The area's situation has worsened with the onset of the monsoon, with heavy rains turning the damaged roads into stagnating pools of water. This is not only an inconvenience, but it also poses a serious safety hazard, especially for two-wheeler riders. Ramkumar explained, "People driving scooters face extreme risks. The potholes are submerged underwater, making it impossible to gauge their depth. I've seen multiple accidents due to this."

Ramkumar witnessed one such accident a month back that involved a scooter rider who misjudged a pothole's size and crashed, resulting in severe damage to both the vehicle and the rider. "He ended up with a fractured limb," he recalled. The constant rainfall and lack of road maintenance have made these incidents more frequent, creating hazardous conditions for everyone.

Local civic leaders have failed to address these concerns effectively, leaving residents to fend for themselves. With no long-term solution in sight, residents of Doddakallasandra are calling for greater accountability from BBMP and local representatives. Until then, they continue to deal with hazardous roads, unsafe sidewalks, and the looming risk of accidents during the monsoon. "We're just waiting for the next round of rains to completely wash out the cheap quality tar they've laid," Ramkumar added. **— Vanshika Singh**

When it rains, riders are unable to gauge the depths of potholes, leading to severe accidents in many cases

DID YOU KNOW?

THE KARNI MATA TEMPLE: A RAT SANCTUARY

The Karni Mata Temple, located in the city of Bikaner in Rajasthan, India, is a unique and fascinating place of worship. It's dedicated to Karni Mata, a Hindu goddess who is believed to be the reincarnation of the goddess Durga. The most distinctive feature of the temple is its large population of rats, which are considered sacred by the local community. These rats, known as "kabbas," are believed to be the reincarnated souls of devotees who have served Karni Mata in previous lives. Visitors to the temple are expected to treat the rats with respect and reverence. They are not allowed to harm or kill the rats, and they must share their food with them. It's believed that touching a rat or eating food alongside them brings good luck.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

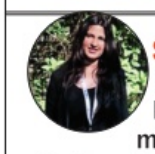
9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

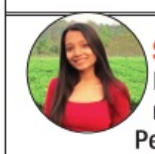
TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

What are some popular recreational activities or hobbies that people in Bengaluru engage in?



Surbhi, BM Reader
Walking around Church Street and Brigade Road, shopping at Commercial Street, dog park days at Cubbon Park, soul sante events, and queer events such as Maya Bazaar are some of the activities I like engaging in.

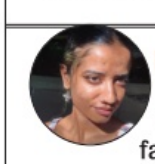


Suhani , BM Reader
I think Cubbon Park is one of the most visited places in Bengaluru. People cycle, jog, play, have picnics, and get their dogs to the park here which helps people relax after a busy week.

Snigdha, BM Reader
Bengaluru has many gardens and lake spaces where one can go for walks. There are also many hill spots nearby. Nandi Hills is a very popular one, however, the rest calls for exploration.

Priyantika, BM Reader
I think many people just like to visit cafes and sit there to read a book or work. There are cafes that provide pottery and painting classes along with food, so many people visit these places.

Srishti Sharma , BM Reader
As far as hobbies are concerned, I specifically used to visit Blossoms almost every weekend just so I could buy or simply spend time with some books and then go to a nearby cafe for lunch.



Riya, BM Reader
Cubbon Park goes crazy on weekends so it is one of the favourite places for Bengalureans. Other than that there are a lot of shopping options like malls, Brigade Road, MG Road, Commercial Street, etc.

SPEAK TO US

What are some unique traditions or festivals celebrated in Bengaluru?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at WhatsApp us on 9591233247 or mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

HEALTH TIP: After your meal, chew on some gum for 10 minutes to help prevent indigestion

Indian Gooseberry is rich in antioxidants and vitamin C thus making it a popular choice in Ayurveda for hair care

BangaloreMirror 9
Sunday, October 20, 2024
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All you need to know about...

Blackhead removal

How to get rid of them
Tackling blackheads can be very painful. The first of the firsts for getting rid of blackheads is moisturising the skin with the right cream or moisturiser. Salicylic acid is a great option for dissolving blackheads away and it can be found in over-the-counter products available on the market. Retinoid skin creams are also a useful way to get rid of blackheads. Drinking a lot of water can help in hydrating the skin's surface by keeping the potent oil blocks away.

1. Exfoliate
If you have not started yet, it's time to include exfoliation in your skincare regimen. Use a natural or cosmetic scrub, suitable for your skin type to slough off grime and dead skin cell from your skin. Concentrate on the blackhead-infested area while you are at it. Exfoliate at least once a week.

2. Facials
Getting facials regularly can help curb blackheads to an extent. Facials are a refreshing way to rid the skin of impurities, and deep-seated debris and restore the glow.

3. Invest in the right products
If you have acne or blackhead-prone skin, it's time you reconsidered your skincare products. Buy non-comedogenic products which are specially formulated to not clog the pores.

4. Keep skin clean at all times
Every time you step out of the house, your skin attracts dirt. If not cleaned well, it may lead to blocked pores increasing the chances of blackheads. Makeup can have the same effect on the skin and if not cleaned out completely, might result in blackheads and even breakouts. Always remember to remove makeup and wash your face before calling it a day.

—Femina

TASTE LIKE NO OTHER

Unique recipes that are the chef's kiss

PULLED LAMB PAPPARDELLE PASTA

INGREDIENTS

For the Pulled Lamb:
- 2 lbs lamb shoulder, boneless
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 carrot, chopped
- 2 celery stalks, chopped
- 1 can (14 oz) diced tomatoes
- 1 cup red wine (optional)
- 2 cups beef or lamb broth
- 1 tablespoon fresh rosemary, chopped
- 1 tablespoon fresh thyme, chopped
- Salt and pepper to taste

For the Pappardelle:
- 12 oz pappardelle pasta
- Grated Parmesan cheese (for serving)
- Fresh parsley, chopped (for garnish)

METHOD

Prepare the Pulled Lamb
- Heat the olive oil in a large pot over medium heat.
- Add the lamb shoulder and sear on all sides until browned, about 5 minutes per side. Remove the lamb and set aside.
- In the same pot, add the onion, garlic, carrot, and celery. Sauté until the vegetables are softened, about 5-7 minutes.
- Stir in the diced tomatoes, red wine (if using), broth, rosemary, thyme, salt, and pepper.
- Return the lamb to the pot, ensuring it's mostly submerged in the liquid. Bring to a simmer, then cover and cook on low heat for about 3 hours, or until the lamb is tender and easily pulled apart with a fork.

Cook the Pappardelle
- About 20 minutes before the lamb is ready, bring a large pot of salted water to a boil.
- Cook the pappardelle according to package instructions until al dente. Drain, reserving a little pasta water.

Combine
- Remove the lamb from the pot and use two forks to shred it. Return the shredded lamb to the sauce and stir well.
- If the sauce is too thick, add a bit of the reserved pasta water to reach your desired consistency.

Serve
- Toss the cooked pappardelle with the pulled lamb mixture until well coated.
- Plate the pasta and top with grated Parmesan and chopped parsley.

Recipe by Chef Mahfuz Shaikh, Head Chef at Napoli by Shatranj

BLR BREWING'S SPICED EGGNOG

INGREDIENTS
- 2 Eggs • 40g Granulated Sugar
- 50ml Cream • 100ml Milk
- Fresh nutmeg • ½ tbsp Vanilla Extract • 50ml combined brandy, rum and bourbon

METHOD
- Cooking and Blending
- Whisk eggs and sugar until frothy.
- Heat milk and cream gently until warm.
- Slowly combine warm milk/cream into egg mixture while whisking.
- Cook on low heat until slightly thickened (avoid boiling).
- Stir in alcohol and vanilla extract.
- Chill the mixture, pour into a glass, and garnish with freshly grated nutmeg

Recipe by Head Mixologist Louis Shaker, BLR Brewing Co.

SPICY PRAWNS AND CHIVES DUMPLING

INGREDIENTS

Filling:
- 70g prawns, finely chopped
- 3g white seasoning
- Green chili (to taste)
- 2-3g chives
- 2g shiitake mushrooms
- Carrot, finely chopped

Dough (Skin):
- 10g wheat starch
- 4g potato starch
- 15g chive & spring onion juice

Garnish:
- 2g black caviar

METHOD
- Filling: Mix chopped prawns, chives, mushrooms, carrot, seasoning, and chili.
- Dough: Knead wheat and potato starch with juice until smooth. Roll into thin sheets.
- Assemble: Fill wrappers with prawn mixture, seal, and steam for 5-6 minutes.
- Garnish: Top each dumpling with black caviar before serving.

Recipe by Brand Chef Sagar Sarkar at Bellona Hospitality Services Ltd for CHA

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BTM LAYOUT

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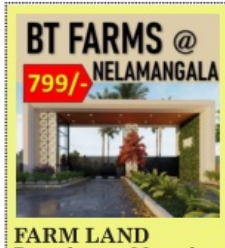

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Exploitation of water resources main cause

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of the groundwater table, say experts.

"Authorities concerned should take measures around demand management of groundwater, apart from spreading awareness around depleting water table. We have yet not been able to put a check on the illegal sinking of bore wells. While this is an important step to conserve groundwater table, it should be accompanied by information about different avenues," said a city-based expert.

Some also raise concerns around underground structures, such as the proposed tunnel road and umpteen residential and commercial buildings with underground storage and parking systems. They opine the first step towards the conservation of groundwater can be the mapping of the city's aquifer system, especially shallow aquifers.

"These structures may interfere with the movement of water in shallow water aquifer networks. They have the potential to greatly reduce the area of the aquifer and impact the flow of groundwater. The proposed tunnel road might prove to be a threat to groundwater. It is not advisable to go ahead with the tunnel road or any underground project without a thorough assessment of shallow aquifers in the given areas.

Any interruption in underground water movement will leave an adverse impact on a city like Bengaluru," added the expert.

Traffic advisory to ease ORR congestion

To address traffic congestion on Outer Ring Road, the HAL Airport Traffic Police have imposed restrictions starting from October 21. The Karthiknagar Outer Ring Road near Jeevika Hospital Cross, connecting the Service Road and Outer Ring Road, will be closed.

Motorists heading towards Whitefield and Kundalahalli Gate from Marathahalli Bridge are advised to take a 'U' turn at Karthiknagar Junction and continue their journey. Those traveling towards Jeevika Hospital and Chinnappanahalli from Marathahalli can take a 'U' turn at Doddanekundi Junction and proceed via Karthiknagar Service Road.

These measures aim to streamline traffic flow and ease congestion in the area. Commuters are advised to plan their routes accordingly and follow the new directions for smoother travel.

Diversions in Rajajinagar

In light of the Ramaanjaneya Idol Prathishtaapaana event at the Sriraama Temple, Rajajinagar, scheduled from October 21 to October 23, traffic restrictions have been put in place to manage the anticipated large gathering of devotees.

Vehicles approaching the Rama Mandira from the Rajajinagar Old Police Station Circle and the Rajajinagar entrance are restricted. BMTC buses and other vehicles from ESI Hospital will not be allowed to take a right turn at the Old Police Station Circle and must proceed towards Dr. Rajkumar Road.

Similarly, vehicles from Rajajinagar Entrance must continue on Vatal Nagaraj Road and are prohibited from turning right at Ram Mandira (10th Main).

They can proceed towards Bhashyam Circle. The public is urged to cooperate with the diversions and plan their travel accordingly. **BMB**

South Western Railway sees 61% revenue surge

South Western Railway (SWR) has achieved a remarkable 61.28% growth in earnings from special trains during the current financial year. Between April and October 11, SWR operated 292 special trains, generating ₹120.28 crore, a significant increase from ₹74.58 crores during the same period in 2023.

This rise is closely linked to an upsurge in passenger numbers, with 15.06 lakh travelers opting for these services, marking a 21.84% jump compared to last year's 12.36 lakh passengers.

The surge in revenue is primarily driven by the introduction of additional special trains and an increased demand for travel. In 2024, SWR operated 292 special trains, an impressive 41.75% rise from the 206 trains run in 2023.

This added capacity has resulted in an additional ₹45.70 crore in earnings, with 2.7 lakh more passengers than the previous year.

Monthly data shows consistent growth. In April 2024, SWR operated 57 special trains, transporting 2.93 lakh passengers and earning ₹23.58 crore. May 2024 marked the highest revenue month, with ₹32.24 crores earned from 69 special trains carrying 3.79 lakh passengers.

Sub-standard repair work stands exposed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

KAUSHIK JN

"I was very happy when the BBMP workers filled the potholes near Adarsha Junction around 20 days ago. Now, those potholes have resurfaced thus causing inconvenience to the motorists.

The BBMP officials must make an effort to ensure the pothole problems are fixed in a long-lasting manner," said Ashok K, an autorickshaw driver.

The motorists have to be cautious to commute on Double Road, Shantinagar as the road is full of potholes. "I blame the elected representatives and BBMP for the condition of the Double Road. The condition of the road has worsened due to the recent rain. They must asphalt the road for the benefit of thousands of motorists who commute on this road every day," said Santosh N, a two-wheeler rider.

Though Avenue Road was developed recently, the condition of the crossroads is far from satisfactory. For example, Kilari Road craves for the attention of the authorities. There are a number of potholes on this road but the authorities have not taken measures to fill them up. "Potholes have become a hurdle for motorists. The government spent a lot of money to develop Avenue Road but has forgotten to fill up potholes on crossroads," said Venugopal P, a pedestrian.

Vinod Jacob of Namma Bengaluru Foundation said that the extensive rains have once again exposed the poor quality of our roads, with potholes reappearing and patchwork failing prematurely. He said that it was evident that BBMP engineers have not mastered the basics of road engineering — designing proper roads for vehicles and effective drains for water.

"The absence of filters in shoulder drains allows debris to clog them, forcing rainwater onto the roads, which accelerates asphalt deterioration and leads to recurring potholes. Contractors must be held accountable for neglecting fundamental engineering principles, such as ensuring proper drainage gradients to direct water away from road surfaces.

The BBMP should organise a visit of their contractors to Electronics City Industrial Township Authority (ELCITA) in Electronic City, where simple yet effective road designs and drainage systems are well implemented. If they can manage it, why can't the BBMP apply the same standards to at least major link roads to stop these recurring potholes after each rain?" said Vinod.

Prof MN Sreehari, traffic expert, said that potholes have to be filled up scientifically. "The BBMP engineers do not follow the method to fill up potholes. They fill up potholes with mud and stones. One rain causes the potholes to reappear on the city roads," said Prof Sreehari.

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I, VINESH CHAITHANYA B.V, Residing at No. 159, 2nd Main, M.S. Ramaiah City, J.P. Nagar 7th Phase, Bangalore-560076, Have changed our minor Son's name JANITH NANDAN BOYAPATI To VIHAAN SURYA BOYAPATI , vide affidavit dated 18/10/2024 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, Gopala Krishnappa, S/o B Krishnappa, R/o No. 28, Bluejay Atmosphere 2 Andrahalli main road, Kariobanahalli, Nagasandra Bengaluru 560073, have changed my name to Gopal Krishnappa for all purposes.

I Ananya Devaraju d/o Devaraju & Indira Devaraj R/o 89 Honey Garden Layout, Holiday Village Club Road, Thalagattapura, Bengaluru-560062 have changed my name to Ananya Devaraj for all purposes.

I, Pramod Kumar Raja R/O No 23, 6th Main, 8th cross, Malleshwaram, Blr-03 I changed my Minor son name from Abhinav Pramod Kumar Raja to Abhinav Pramod Kumar for all future purposes.

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Arth rewind
The restored version of celebrated film 'Arth', directed by filmmaker, Mahesh Bhatt will be screened at the prestigious MAMI Film Festival on October 20

BangaloreMirror | 13
Sunday, October 20, 2024
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Jaw-dropping snaps

PC's lean avatar has got fans gushing and speculating at the same time

Priyanka Chopra made some jaw-dropping appearances in Mumbai city over the last few days before jetting out once again.

The actress, who was in Mumbai for a screening of her film 'Paani', and for a business venture, made rather striking appearances, giving fans a tease of her glamorous side.

With the star dropping her latest set of pictures from last night's event, social media was set abuzz with many expressing surprise over her noticeably slimmer frame and chiselled jawline. The actress left fans divided as some praised her new, toned appearance, while others speculated if she underwent cosmetic procedures. Priyanka shared photos on her social media handle in a shimmery mini-dress with a long train and another of her corset gown. However, it was her chiselled new look that had fans giving the pics a double take. While many swooned over her transformation, calling her "stunning" and "gorgeous," others were quick to point out her sharper facial features.

One fan commented, "Priyanka's jawline is so sharp now! She looks amazing," while another wrote, "Is this a recent photo? Looks like she has lost some weight." Others couldn't quite put their finger on what they thought was different saying, "She looks different now."

Over the past months, Priyanka has been balancing a busy schedule between her business ventures and Hollywood projects. The actress has been focused on her upcoming projects, 'Heads of State', alongside John Cena and Idris Elba, and 'The Bluff' with Karl Urban. **—ETimes**

What Adi wants

Aditya Roy Kapur, who had reportedly split from Ananya Panday earlier this year, shared the qualities he admires most in a woman, and his response is sure to capture your hearts.

During a conversation with Kareena Kapoor Khan on her chat show 'What Women Want', Aditya Roy Kapur revealed what he finds most attractive in a woman. 'The Night Manager' star said, "I think a sense of humour is great. Being honest is also great, and someone who speaks their mind is an interactive thing. Being passionate about the thing that they are doing."

Aditya Roy Kapur jokingly asked Kareena Kapoor Khan if she had been expecting a more "Masaledaar" (spicy) answer. Laughing, she replied, "Not Masaledaar, but at least something!"

During the same interview, Kareena also quizzed Aditya on dealing with 'ghosting' in relationships. Aditya candidly replied that he prefers to block rather than engage with endless messages. He joked, "A hundred messages! I'm bad with my phone anyway. My whole day will go by, and I'll just... block."

Kareena then shifted the conversation to his relationship status, noting, "A lot of women want to know about your relationship status." Aditya playfully responded by asking, "Is chilling a status?" To which Kareena quipped, "You are always chilling, Adi."

Meanwhile, on the work front, Aditya is set to star in Anurag Basu's 'Metro In Dino' alongside Sara Ali Khan. On the other hand, Ananya Panday has an exciting lineup of projects, including 'Call Me Bae Season 2' and an untitled film featuring Akshay Kumar and R Madhavan. **—ETimes**

Dark world of narcotics

PRAKARANA TANIKA HANTADALLIDE
2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Sundar S
- **ACTORS** Mahin Kuber, Mutthuraj T, Pradeep Kumar BP, Raj Gagan, Chinthan Kambanna, Mahesh
- **CERTIFICATION** A
- **Duration** 95 minutes

Director Sundar S has selected a good subject – drugs and crime – for this movie. It throws some light on the drug mafia and addicts in cities and how police fail to eliminate the rings. It also shows the adverse impact drugs can have on college students. The movie also shows how the drug gangs eliminate their opponents ruthlessly.

The movie begins with Subash (Mahesh) getting a phone call from Gaurav (Raj Gagan). Gaurav tells Subash a plan on how to bring drugs from Mangaluru to Bengaluru and later transport it to other cities. But both of them are killed brutally. Sub-Inspector Shouri (Mahin Kuber) and Assistant Sub-Inspector Kemperaj (Mutthuraj T) begin investigation of the murders. They suspect Gaurav's brother Dr Bhargava (Chinthan Kambanna). The Sub-Inspector comes to know that Gaurav was a drug addict. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Dr Bhargava and who is Subash and Gaurav's killer.

The specialty of the film is that the director has conveyed what he wanted to in 95 minutes without adding unnecessary scenes that glorify the hero. The movie has no leading lady or songs. It is the first film for most of the the actors associated with a theater group. Among the actors, Mahin Kuber is promising. He can be an asset to Sandalwood if he focuses on his acting career. His dialogue delivery, body language, and gestures are good. Chinthan Kambanna has also acted well. Mutthuraj and Raj Gagan provide good support.

The police station scene where the Sub-Inspector eats mutton biryani while college students are being beaten brutally highlights how police use different methods to make suspects confess to crime.

It is worth a watch for adults especially those who love crime thrillers.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Whiff of fresh air

MURPHY
3.5 RATING ★★★½☆
- **DIRECTOR** BS Pradeep Varma
- **ACTORS** Prabhu Mundukar (double role), Roshini Prakash, Ila Veeramalla, Dattatreya
- **CERTIFICATION** U
- **Duration** 136 minutes

Director BS Pradeep Varma has tried to tell a fresh love story in a unique style. Varma has ensured the film is of top quality and made the cast follow the script faithfully. The director, by using a radio as a symbol to connect the characters in the movie, transports audiences to the Cricket World Cup of 1996. The audiences will get an opportunity to watch how the Sri Lanka cricket team was declared as winners against the Indian cricket team. The movie has the potential to connect and relate with the audiences.

The movie is about David (Prabhu Mundkur), a college student, who is in love with Jessie (Ila Veeramalla). David stays with his grandfather Richie (Dattatreya) who insists that David not bring Jessie home when he is not around. Richie has also asked David to not to touch an old radio. But David decides to repair the radio to give it as a gift to his grandpa. While repairing the radio, he comes into contact with Janani Chandrasekhar aka Jenny (Roshini Prakash) through a cross connection on the radio. He mistakes Janani as a college student and continues to talk with her through the radio.

She even tells him how she fell in love with Joseph Richard Murphy aka Joe, a guest physics lecturer. You have to watch the movie to know who Joseph Richard Murphy is and whether David succeeds in meeting Janani.

While Prabhu Mundukur is at his best, both the heroines – Roshini Prakash and Ila Veeramalla – have also outdone each other. Rishini, as an orphan, looks cool and comfortable throughout the movie. Ila Veeramalla, as Jessi who craves for freedom, steals the show with her bold performance, especially in a song sequence. Veteran character actor Dattatreya has pulled off the grandfather character that is an embodiment of love, affection, responsibility and concern, brilliantly. Ashwini Rao Pallakki and Mahantesh Hiremath provide good support.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

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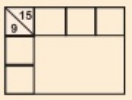
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

$2^{38} + 2^{38} + 2^{38} + 2^{38} = 32^{x}$

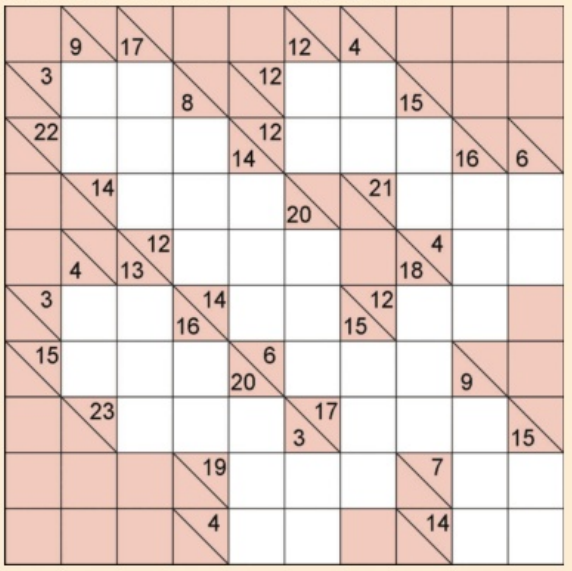
x=?

Kakuro

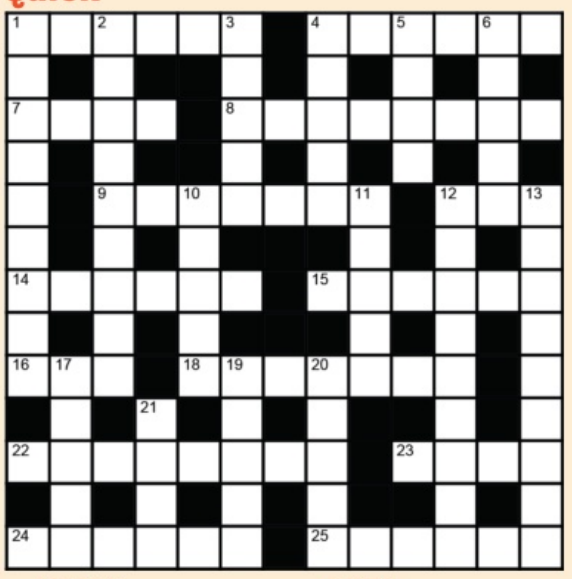
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Stems (6)
4 Disembarked (3,3)
7 Type of tree (4)
8 Indian mountain range (8)
9 Most feeble (7)
12 Adult males (3)
14 You will find the planetarium on this road (6)
15 Keep waiting (6)
16 Crackerjack? (3)
18 Roman historian (7)
22 Newsman Rajdeep ____ (8)
23 Just (4)
24 Defer consideration of plans etc. (6)
25 Physician (6)

DOWN

1 Laurel and Hardy's adventure as sailors? (4,2,3)
2 Stipend (9)
3 Fiery particle (5)
4 Prods or spurs (5)
5 Serving plate (4)
6 Incorrect (5)
10 Representative (5)
11 Robbery (5)
12 Assessment of private resources (5,4)
13 Multi-dimensional (9)
17 Disagreement (5)
19 Passageway (5)
20 Homer work (5)
21 Figure of worship (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: W EQUALS T

GR ZGF GR WSI HQRWBJIF PR HBCHIFCIY, WSI PCWIFZGHI PR WSI OFBYQHW.

Linemaro

I love the fact that you are more than your looks

Mindchow

One does not discover new lands without consenting to lose sight of the shore for a very long time

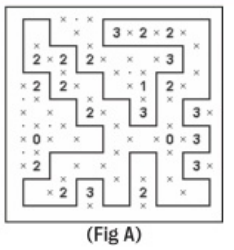
Joke of the day

Somebody just gave me a shower radio. Thanks a lot. Do you really want music in the shower? I guess there's no better place to dance than a slick surface next to a glass door

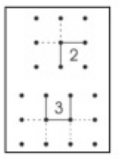
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

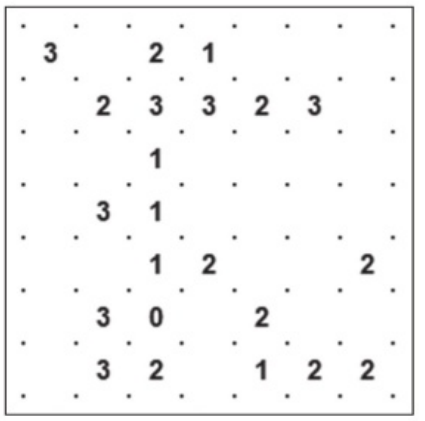


(Fig B) Not Allowed

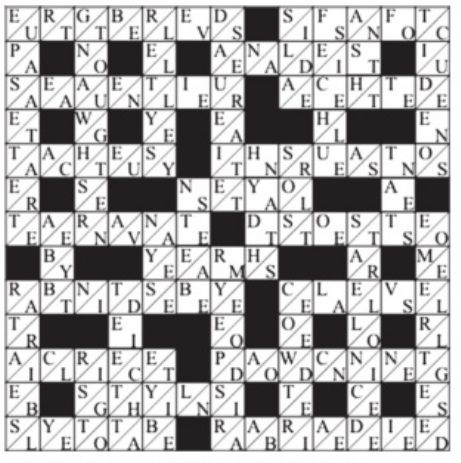
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



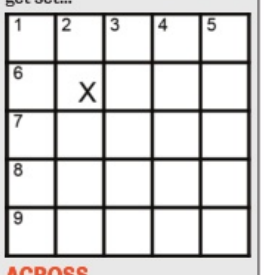
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

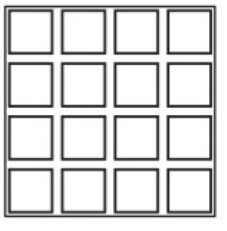
1 Lip so; 6 Latex;
7 Be bay; 8 Largo;
9 Weals

DOWN

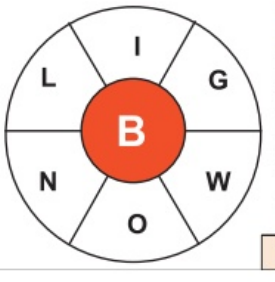
1 Pages; 2 Bow ox;
3 L Arab; 4 Leal I;
5 TE sly

Mensapuzzle

Put 10 crosses in this grid such that there is an even number of crosses in every row and column, and in both main diagonals.



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; 08 Good; 10 Outstanding

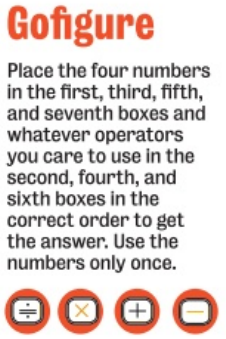
SudokuChallenge

6	1		8	5		2		
4				2	9			8
			3			5		
9							6	
	3	6				8	4	
	4							1
		7			4			
8			6	3				2
		4		7	1		8	9

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

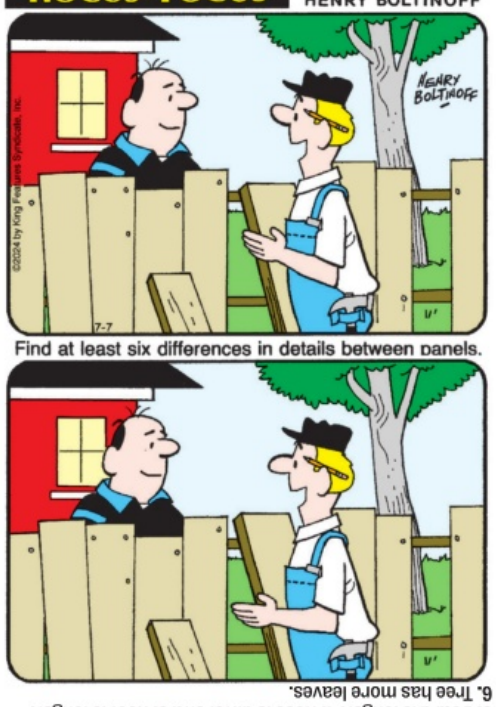
Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Arm is lower. 2. Man is moved. 3. Board is longer. 4. Nose is different. 5. Roof is longer. 6. Tree has more leaves.

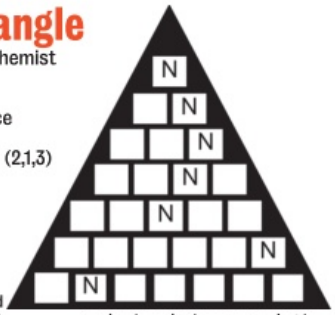
Riddler

Remove a letter from each of the words below and rearrange the remaining letters to form new words. The words will all fall into a certain category.

Cardiac Consult Gawkier Grubbed Temerity

Alpha triangle

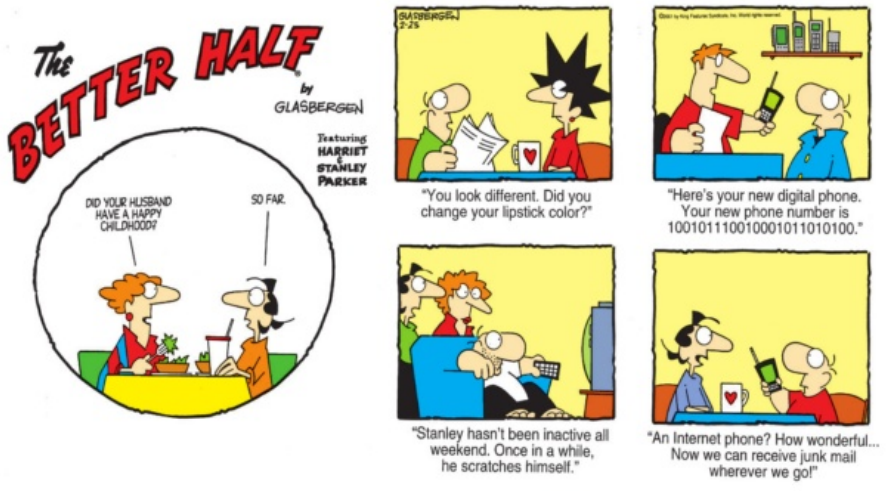
1 Nitrogen for the chemist
2 Article
3 Homo sapiens
4 Supernatural force
5 Devilfish
6 With no exception (2,1,3)
7 Body structure



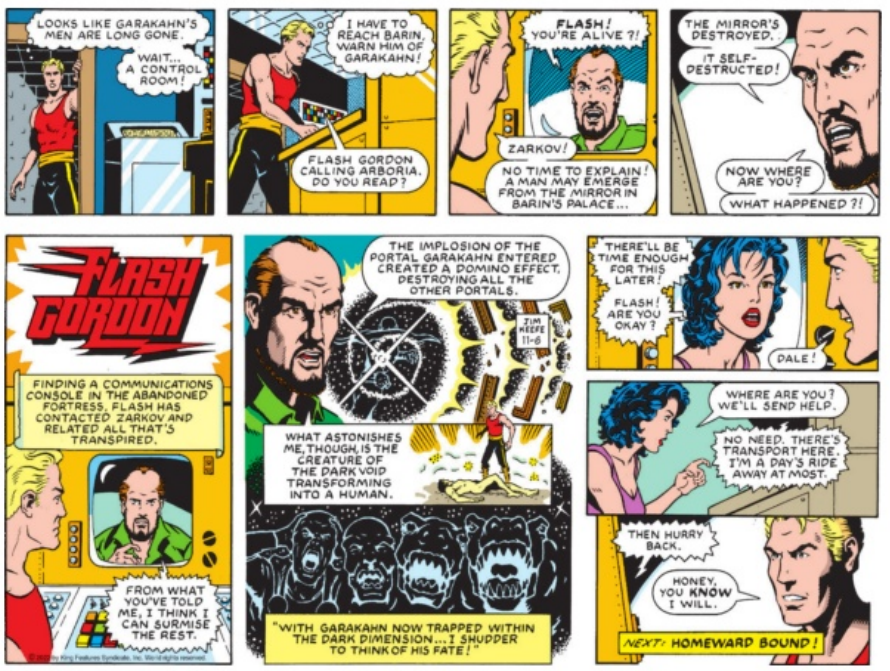
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
DID YOUR HUSBAND HAVE A HAPPY CHILDHOOD?
SO FAR.
"You look different. Did you change your lipstick color?"
"Here's your new digital phone. Your new phone number is 10010111001000101101010 0."
"Stanley hasn't been inactive all weekend. Once in a while, he scratches himself."
"An Internet phone? How wonderful... Now we can receive junk mail wherever we go!"

BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
TELL YOU WHAT?
THIS IS SO COOL!
YOU'RE SO COOL!
I'M THE ONLY KID IN CLASS WHOSE MOM IS A SECRET AGENT!
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'M A SPY?
THIS ENCRYPTED NOTE YOU PUT IN MY LUNCHBOX.
I'M GONNA SEE IF ZOE CAN HELP ME BREAK THE CODE!
IT'S NOT A CODE... IT'S CURSIVE!


FLASH GORDON
LOOKS LIKE GARAKAHN'S MEN ARE LONG GONE.
WAIT... A CONTROL ROOM!
I HAVE TO REACH BARIN, WARN HIM OF GARAKAHN!
FLASH GORDON CALLING ARBORIA. DO YOU READ?
FLASH! YOU'RE ALIVE?!
ZARKOV!
NO TIME TO EXPLAIN! A MAN MAY EMERGE FROM THE MIRROR IN BARIN'S PALACE...
THE MIRROR'S DESTROYED.
IT SELF-DESTRUCTED!
NOW WHERE ARE YOU?
WHAT HAPPENED?!
FINDING A COMMUNICATIONS CONSOLE IN THE ABANDONED FORTRESS, FLASH HAS CONTACTED ZARKOV AND RELATED ALL THAT'S TRANSPIRED.
FROM WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME, I THINK I CAN SURMISE THE REST.
THE IMPLOSION OF THE PORTAL GARAKAHN ENTERED CREATED A DOMINO EFFECT, DESTROYING ALL THE OTHER PORTALS.
TIM MEERE 11-6
WHAT ASTONISHES ME, THOUGH, IS THE CREATURE OF THE DARK VOID TRANSFORMING INTO A HUMAN.
"WITH GARAKAHN NOW TRAPPED WITHIN THE DARK DIMENSION...I SHUDDER TO THINK OF HIS FATE!"
THERE'LL BE TIME ENOUGH FOR THIS LATER!
FLASH! ARE YOU OKAY?
DALE!
WHERE ARE YOU? WE'LL SEND HELP.
NO NEED. THERE'S TRANSPORT HERE. I'M A DAY'S RIDE AWAY AT MOST.
THEN HURRY BACK.
HONEY, YOU KNOW I WILL.
NEXT: HOMEWARD BOUND!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may find mental peace. You are likely to be busy with friends and family. You may enjoy your domestic life, which could increase understanding with your spouse. New business partnerships may arise, and new innovations could help your business grow. Disputes in partnerships may be resolved now.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, your good health may make you happy. Health-related issues are likely to be resolved. You may control your unnecessary expenditures, and new sources of income may open up, boosting your financial health. Singles may find a soulmate within their community.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, the moon is positive. You may have a surge of energy, allowing you to perform efficiently at work. You may also help someone in need, enhancing your reputation among those around you. You might spend time studying intellectual material and may also consider pursuing higher education to advance your career.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, until the evening, you may feel impatient and lack confidence, which could affect your work. Concerns about your parents' health may trouble you, and your kids' mischievous behaviour might upset you. You should try to focus and avoid spreading your energy too thin. It is advised to avoid investments in risky assets for now.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may feel happy. You might plan a work-related overseas trip, which could expand your business in the future. Spending on luxury items may improve your lifestyle, but be cautious not to indulge too much in glamour or addictions, as it may affect your financial health.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you are advised to control your speech, as harsh words may disrupt family harmony. You might spend your hard-earned money on unnecessary items to maintain social status. It is advised not to keep loose money in your pocket.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may be busy with your child's career or extracurricular activities. You might seek advice from someone regarding career options and may meet with consultants or specialists. You could also receive good news about your child's results. Investing capital into your family business is possible.

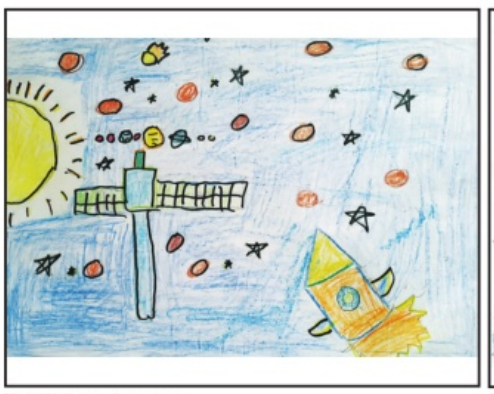
Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you must control your speech and be cautious of hidden enemies and opponents. You may be at risk of being a victim of conspiracy. Investments in risky assets are not advisable. Avoid lending money, as it may be hard to recover. Practising meditation and yoga can help you manage stress. Couples are advised to avoid getting involved in controversies, and students should focus on working hard.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, job seekers may find new opportunities, and there are chances of promotions in current jobs. In business, new clients may contribute to growth and profits. Singles are likely to find a suitable match. In domestic life, it is important to be open with your spouse, as hiding things could create distance in the relationship.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today is a day of success in your profession. Your plans are likely to yield positive results, especially in terms of profits. There may be good news regarding past investments. Your creativity may enhance your professional skills. Job seekers are likely to find suitable positions, and students may improve their focus after some self-analysis. You may also gain a better understanding of your spouse's feelings.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, until the afternoon, you may feel upset. However, blessings from elders in the afternoon may help you overcome this situation. Your willpower can assist you in completing delayed projects. Avoid arguments in domestic life. By the evening, you may see gains from past investments.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, the moon is not favourable, and you may not feel well, possibly experiencing health issues. Avoid making investments in new business projects, as they may lead to losses. Students are advised to steer clear of distractions and work hard in their studies. Drive carefully, and avoid rushing.


Mithil Kulkarni, Bengaluru

Sara Jain, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$2^{7}38(1+1+1+1)=32^{7}x$
$2^{7}38x4=32^{7}x$
$2^{7}38=2^{7}5x/2^{7}2$
$2^{7}38=2^{7}5x-2$
Base is same so their indices are also same
$38=5x-2$
$5o\ x=38+2/5x$
$x=40/5$
$X=8$

QUOTE UNCODE
As far as the customer is concerned, the interface is the product.

P	O	L	I	S	H
A	L	T	E	X	S
H	S	E	B	A	G
L	A	R	O	O	G
V	E	Y	A	W	S
S	W	A	L	E	N

FAST FIVE
blingo, blow, BLOWING, goblin blown, boil, bowling, bowl, BOWLING, glib,

BULL'S EYE

U	T	T	E	R	E	D	I	F	N	O	T
S	A	U	N	T	E	R	A	C	H	E	D
T	G	E	A	H	E						
A	C	H	E	S	T	H	R	U	S	T	S
R	E	S	E	A	L	A					
T	E	N	A	N	T	S	E	T	S	E	
B	S	T	Y	L	I	E	E	E			
A	L	I	C	E	P	A	W	N	I	N	G
R	I	O	O	L	R						
A	B	I	D	E	B	Y	C	A	L	V	E
B	Y	A	M	S	A	M					
E	C	N	F	N							
S	A	N	K	E	Y	D	E	T	A	I	N
T	A	G	H	E	O						
A	W	E	A	K	E	S	T	M	E	N	
S	O	R	D	Y	S						
P	A	L	M	A	R	A	V	A	L	L	I
S	O	L	A	S	A						
S	H	E	L	V	E	D	O	O	C	T	O	R

STRIKE OUT

S	E	T	A	E	A	B	R	A	D	E	D
B	S	T	Y	L	I	E	E	E			
A	L	I	C	E	P	A	W	N	I	N	G
R	I	O	O	L	R						
A	B	I	D	E	B	Y	C	A	L	V	E
B	Y	A	M	S	A	M					
E	C	N	F	N							
T	E	N	A	N	T	S	E	T	S	E	
R	E	S	E	A	L	A					
A	C	H	E	S	T	H	R	U	S	T	S
T	G	E	A	H	E						
S	A	U	N	T	E	R	A	C	H	E	D
P	O	E	E	N	D	I	T	I			
U	T	T	E	R	E	D	I	F	N	O	T

QUICK

S	T	A	L	K	S	G	O	T	O	F	F
A	L	P	O	R	A						
P	A	L	M	A	R	A	V	A	L	L	I
S	O	R	D	Y	S						
A	W	E	A	K	E	S	T	M	E	N	
T	A	G	H	E	O						
S	A	N	K	E	Y	D	E	T	A	I	N
E	C	N	F	N							
A	C	E	T	A	C	I	T	U	S	I	
L	I	I	L	T	N						
S	A	R	D	E	S	A	I	M	E	R	E
S	O	L	A	S	A						

RIDDLER Cicada, Locust, Earwig, Bedbug, Termite

MENSA PUZZLE
One answer is

X		X	
	X	X	
X	X	X	X
	X	X	

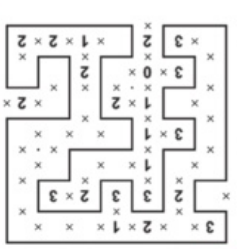
SUDOKU

6	1	3	8	5	7	2	9	4
4	7	5	1	2	9	6	3	8
2	8	9	3	4	6	5	1	7
9	5	2	4	1	8	7	6	3
1	3	6	7	9	2	8	4	5
7	4	8	5	6	3	9	2	1
3	2	7	9	8	4	1	5	6
8	9	1	6	3	5	4	7	2
5	6	4	2	7	1	3	8	9

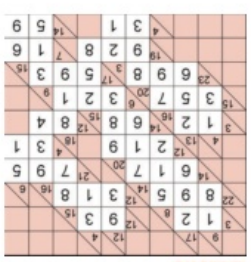
ALPHA TRIANGLE
N, An, Man, Mana, Mantra, To a man, Anatomy.

GO FIGURE
Easy
$6-2+3+1=8$
Medium
$4+8+7+7=26$
Hard
$3-9/3+6=4$

LOOP



KAKURO



Volume No 17, Issue No 041 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/22325 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

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i20 benefits up to **₹55 000***

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